

Greater Manchester Combined Authority

Date: 31st January 2025

Subject: GMFRS Fire Plan 2025-29

Report of: Kate Green, Deputy Mayor for Safer and Stronger Communities

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the production of the Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service (GMFRS) Fire Plan for 2025-29. This plan outlines the strategic priorities and commitments of GMFRS over the next four years. The report provides an overview of the engagement activities that have already shaped the draft, and will continue to shape the final version of the Fire Plan, ensuring it meets the needs of our communities and helps deliver the city-region's wider plans.

Recommendations:

The GMCA is requested to:

1. Note the contents of the draft plan found at Appendix A and provide any feedback
2. Share the consultation and the presentation slide pack found at Appendix B with interested stakeholders and encourage them to share their views / feedback.

Contact Officers

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Equalities Impact, Carbon and Sustainability Assessment:

[Sustainability Decision Support Tool](#)

Risk Management

N/A

Legal Considerations

N/A

Financial Consequences – Revenue

N/A

Financial Consequences – Capital

N/A

Number of attachments to the report: 2

Comments/recommendations from Overview & Scrutiny Committee

N/A

Background Papers

[Greater Manchester Fire Plan \(2021-25\)](#)

Tracking/ Process

Does this report relate to a major strategic decision, as set out in the GMCA Constitution

No

Exemption from call in

Are there any aspects in this report which means it should be considered to be exempt from call in by the relevant Scrutiny Committee on the grounds of urgency?

Bee Network Committee

N/A

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

N/A

Introduction

1. The Fire Plan is our overarching strategy for the next four years, placing GMFRS at the heart of the Mayor's ambitions for Greater Manchester and central to our roadmap for creating an outstanding fire and rescue service. Our draft plan has been produced in collaboration with Mayor Andy Burnham, Deputy Mayor Kate Green, and CFO Dave Russel.
2. The draft Fire Plan published on Monday 13th January, details how the Service will identify new and evolving risks, ensure the right resources are in place, and continue to put keeping residents and businesses safe at the heart of everything the Service does.
3. The content of this draft plan was developed following a series of internal workshops, meetings with partners, polls / surveys of over 3,800 GM residents, and resident focus groups to understand their priorities in more detail. Initial feedback from residents focussed on value for money, the importance of prevention, and ensuring all buildings are safe.
4. The Plan seeks to effectively deliver GMFRS's statutory functions as well as the city-region's wider ambitions around Live Well, Housing First, Vision Zero, and the MBacc
5. Like the Greater Manchester Strategy (GMS), the Fire Plan (Fire Plan) is more strategic and streamlined than the previous one, focussing on outcomes and clearer deliverables.

GMFRS Strategic Priorities

6. We used the feedback to develop the priorities for the Service and a series of commitments to our communities, staff, and partners. Below details the three main priority areas for the next four years:
 - **Help make our communities safer and more resilient** – by actively preventing emergencies to reduce the risk to communities and firefighters, and working to improve the health, prospects, and living conditions of the people of Greater Manchester.
 - **Deliver a first-class emergency response** – by understanding and adapting to the changing risks Greater Manchester faces, so we are ready when an emergency occurs, including when a multi-agency response with other blue light services is necessary.

- **Ensure service excellence, inclusivity, and sustainability** – by making sure we have the right people, with the right skills, to create a culture that is supportive, inclusive, and guided by inspiring leadership.

7. Examples of the commitments beneath these priorities include:

- Engage effectively with all communities and our partners, working together to solve problems and deliver joint responses to local risks.
- Support the delivery of 'Live Well' to help improve the health and well-being of our communities and create better opportunities for everyone.
- Adapt our home fire safety assessments to support the delivery of new property checks as part of the work of the city-region's Housing First Unit.
- Work with the Safer Roads Greater Manchester Partnership to deliver 'Vision Zero', our shared vision for zero deaths and serious injuries on our roads and across the Bee Network.
- Enhance our youth engagement schemes and ensure they help deliver the city-region's wider commitments, including offering young people opportunities to help develop their skills and achieve their aspirations, and support the reduction of offending and serious violence.
- Work to ensure we are resilient and prepared to respond to the increasing threat of incidents caused by the climate emergency.
- Explore opportunities to provide a wider response to medical emergencies.

8. A range of activities are now underway to link in with internal and external stakeholders to discuss the proposed strategic priorities and commitments, encouraging their feedback to help shape the final version. This will include in-person presentations, virtual sessions, and written correspondence and will include - all Chief Fire Officers, local businesses, other blue light agencies, community safety partnerships and other key partners. There will also be a range of internal staff engagement sessions. This will be supported by proactive promotion on all our social media channels.

9. To assist stakeholders in sharing information and encouraging their teams to share their views / feedback a supporting presentation slide pack has been produced and can be found at Appendix B.

10. Greater Manchester residents, businesses and partners can view the proposals and provide feedback through a short survey. All responses will help shape how the service continues to serve the city-region over the next four years.

11. People can view the plan and submit their feedback online via the GM Consult website using the below link or QR code:

www.gmconsult.org/gmfrs/fire-plan



12. The final version of the Fire Plan is due to be published in May 2025, incorporating the feedback and insights gathered during the consultation period.